

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please make the following amendments:

1. (currently amended) A method for resupplying reagents inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:
averaging an a daily assay demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for assays ~~during each separate one of~~ over a sequence of single specifically defined seven twenty-four hour daily time periods;
prior to ~~a single specifically defined~~ any specific one of the seven twenty-four hour daily periods subsequent to period following the sequence of single specifically defined the seven twenty-four hour daily time periods, compare the averaged assay demand pattern for that specific one of the seven twenty-four hour daily periods with the reagents inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which reagents are forecast to be exhausted before ~~the time period following the sequence of single specifically defined~~ said specific twenty-four hour daily period periods; and,
undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reagents within the analyzer.

2. (currently amended) A method for resupplying standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:
averaging a daily calibration and control procedure demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for calibration and control procedures during each separate one of

~~over a sequence of single specifically defined~~ seven twenty-four hour daily time periods;

prior to ~~a single specifically defined~~ any specific one of the seven twenty-four hour daily periods subsequent to period following the sequence of single specifically defined the seven twenty-four hour daily time periods, compare the averaged calibration and control procedure demand pattern for that specific one of the seven twenty-four hour daily periods with the standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which standard chemical solutions are forecast to be exhausted before ~~the time period following the sequence of single specifically defined~~ said specific twenty-four hour daily period periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of standard chemical solutions within the analyzer.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an operator identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an LIS or HIS where the analyzer is located identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an MIS identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method for resupplying reagents inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:

averaging an assay demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for assays over a sequence of single specifically defined time periods;

prior to a single specifically defined time period following the sequence of single specifically defined time periods, compare the averaged assay demand pattern with the reagents inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which reagents are forecast to be exhausted before the time period following the sequence of specifically defined time periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reagents within the analyzer. ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein averaging the assay pattern includes tracking reagent and calibration solution consumption along with time and date of consumption of all reagents consumed on a per reagent container, per calibration vial container, per assay, and per calibration basis.